



**MEMORANDUM**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**CHILDREN'S SYSTEMS OF CARE DIVISION**  
County of Placer

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** December 14, 2021  
**FROM:** Robert Oldham, Director of Health and Human Services  
**BY:** Joey Wojtowicz, Staff Services Analyst II  
**SUBJECT:** Declaring January 2022 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month"

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Proclamation declaring January 2022 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in Placer County.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2010, by presidential proclamation, January was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human Trafficking is a borderless crime against individuals that violates the most basic human rights and deprives victims of human dignity and denies freedom to 32 million people around the world. The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services works collaboratively with many community partners to actively increase awareness of and decrease child trafficking in Placer County through education, prevention and intervention services. These community partners include Kids First, Placer County Office of Education, the Placer County District Attorney's Office, local Law Enforcement agencies, Placer County Probation, Child Advocates of Placer County, CalVoices, as well as other key partners. Together with other community members and organizations, this Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children multi-disciplinary team has coordinated and led a collaborative effort to deliver a variety of services which assist and support Placer's community and families in raising awareness and creating safe and stable environments in which Placer County youth may live and thrive.

January is "National Human Trafficking Awareness Month" and Placer County desires to support all allied community partners in raising awareness and providing education to the community regarding human trafficking.

In addition to celebrating our prevention efforts, we encourage County employees, this Board, and other County partners to participate in the various awareness activities that are being organized by the Placer County Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary team including a public awareness event and a screening of "California's Forgotten Children" a documentary that aims to spread awareness and assist to end this industry.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This item has no fiscal impact to the County.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Proclamation

# Proclamation

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## PROCLAMATION DECLARING JANUARY 2022 AS “HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH” IN PLACER COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, The United States not only faces a problem of foreign victims trafficked into the country, but there is a homegrown problem of American children being recruited and exploited for commercial use; and

**WHEREAS**, child sex trafficking refers to the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a minor for the purposes of a commercial sex act; and

**WHEREAS**, offenders of this crime who are commonly referred to as traffickers, target vulnerable children and gain control over them using a variety of manipulative methods, and lure them in with the offer of food, clothes, attention, friendship, love, a seemingly safe place to sleep, and create a false sense of trust; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County Child Welfare has 10 youth at risk or confirmed to be victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children under the age of 18, and 5 additional young adult victims; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County has a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Collaborative comprised of Law Enforcement, Probation, the Children’s System of Care, the District Attorney’s Office, Placer County Office of Education, and Community Providers to identify, screen, and treat victims, and

**WHEREAS**, between October of 2020 through October of 2021, the Children’s System of Care Intake received calls for 31 at risk minors and 64 confirmed sexual exploitation/suspected sexually exploited youth; Placer County Office of Education worked with 130 students during July of 2020 through June of 2021; and Placer’s Be Bold partner served 42 youth from July 2021 through September 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, all adults and caregivers have a responsibility as neighbors, community members and citizens of Placer County to create safe and healthy environments for children to help produce confident, successful and independent adults; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that our youth, their families and community members learn how to recognize risks and resist predators who use coercion and threats to manipulate children and young adults into sex trafficking; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT** the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim January 2022 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and urges all citizens to join Placer County Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, Probation, the District Attorney’s Office, and many community partners, as they work collaboratively to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and keep all of our children safe from trafficking.

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Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor, District 2  
Chair 2021

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**BONNIE GORE**  
*Supervisor*  
*District 1*

**ROBERT M. WEYGANDT**  
*Supervisor*  
*District 2*

**JIM HOLMES**  
*Supervisor*  
*District 3*

**SUZANNE JONES**  
*Supervisor*  
*District 4*

**CINDY GUSTAFSON**  
*Supervisor*  
*District 5*

